The Hon'ble Members have heard me fully and patiently and I do not think there is anything more for me to add except two more points of some importance. There is a suggestion for the location of certain out-posts in certain areas. I have noted these suggestions but I have not been able to visit these areas. Out-posts are located according to the requirements of the place and the requirements have to be judged from the fact of population and the fact of criminal population. I will visit these places and do the needful in the matter.

Another point also I may mention. Some Hon'ble Members have been asking me for fixing the rate of fares for bus services. There is a rule already in force fixing the maximum fare of one and a half annas per mile. But if any one particular locality is handicapped on this account, steps will of course be taken to eradicate the evil. So I take it that the Hon'ble Members will sanction my allotment.

CUT MOTION No. 1

To raise the pay of the constables in the State

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Sir, *I move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,275 for office Establishment by Re. 1. To draw the attention of the Government to the need to raise the pay of the constables in the State.*

I am particularly glad to find that in the matter of the cut motion that stands in my name the Hon'ble Member in charge of Police Administration has already tried to meet what he regarded as the probable arguments that I may advance in support of the cut motion. I appreciate the remarkably disarming plausibility of his arguments when he has been establishing almost conclusively that the Police Force in our State are much better off than the Police Force of the Travancore State. My idea in tabling this cut motion before this House was not for purposes of comparison. I wanted the problem to be considered on its intrinsic merits as to whether the Police Force are now being adequately paid so that they can live normally and reasonably. I don't know whether it was inadvertance on the part of the Hon'ble Member when he said that the Police Force are now getting more than they deserve.

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* I never said that. I expressed the fear that Hon'ble Members may come to that conclusion.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* I am one of those persons who believe that the Police Force is vital for the preservation of internal security and as such they must be given sufficient inducement as to keep them above corruption and above want. For a decision of this question the only fact that need be placed before this house is to refer to the budget and see what exactly are the provisions made. Now, out of the total Police Force of the State apart from the high-paid staff I find 149 constables are paid at the rate of Rs. 14 per mensem and 321 at the rate of Rs. 12.

Mr. President: I may remind the Hon'ble Member of one point. There is a very large number of newly recruited constables due to the increase of the Police Force, as a result of the present emergency.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cra ganur):* What I am submitting for the consideration of this House is that the increase is necessitated because of peculiar circumstances and peculiar conditions. But because of the peculiarity of circumstances and conditions the Government had found it necessary to increase the force it does not follow that the pay which the constable has been drawing up to this and is drawing is the minimum which they want to lead a reasonable life. Now, Sir, it has been argued before this House that because of the dearness allowance which has been given to all subordinate officials in the State drawing less than Rs. 25 each constable will be getting Rs. 2 more. I fully concede that it is a very wise step on the part of the Government to give these hard worked officers Rs. 2. Does this House for a moment think that it is possible for any man having a family to live on Rs. 14 per mensem and have two square meals per day? There is no meaning in arguing that because a constable is posted to Town he will be getting an additional one rupee as Town allowance. Now that House allowance will go as soon as the Police Lines are constructed and further the House allowance is not to be utilised as a means of filling the stomach. The question is whether these people are now drawing enough if they have got to live in a town and attend to their duties properly upon a well filled stomach. My submission to this House is that it is absolutely insufficient. Now, comparing the figures of our State with that of British India, I am prepared to concede, is not after all a very healthy measure because if we compare the condition of our constables with those of far richer countries normally it will be low. That would not validate the argument that because we are getting more than Travancore our people are in the best of all

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positions. So my submission to this House is that in the matter of such an over-worked and underpaid part of the Government service as the Constabulary it is necessary that this House as well as the Government take a more liberal policy and make it a point to see that they are given something more. I will take up only a minute more of this House to give the comparative figures of the peons of other departments. The House must consider that the constables have to do strenuous duty for more than 6 hours everyday. In Ernakulam I think it is eight hours. A peon in the Munsiff's Court who is to come there at 11 o' clock and who can go away at 5 will be pulling the punkah and sleeping half the time or will be wandering about corridors to relieve his predecessor near the Presiding Officer. He gets Rs. 11, 12, 14 and even 15. Compared to that, Sir, look at the strenuous life of these poor people walking along the streets. We find the constables coming here at 11 o'clock and they have to be there till 5. They cannot even move from there. The nature of the work is so arduous, the resposibility is so great that it is an absolutely insufficient remuneration that they are now getting. If it is argued that what they are getting is sufficient I can only attribute that to that typical capitalistic outlook that the underdog is consistently allowed to be the underdog and only the superior officers what is really necessary to lead a reasonable and proper life. I, therefore commend this motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: Sir, Cut motion No. 7 standing in my name relates to the same subject and that may also be taken along with this motion.

Mr. President: Cut motion No. 7 may be taken up along with this.

CUT MOTION No. 7

To raise the Pay of the Police Constables & Head Constables

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: Sir, I beg to move *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 91,678 for Police Proper by Re. 1.* The object of my motion is to impress upon the Government the necessity *to raise the pay of the constables to the grade of Rs. 15 to 25 and that of the Head Constables to the grade of Rs. 25 to 40 per mensem.*

In commending this motion to the acceptance of the House, I fully endorse the views expressed in this House by my learned Friend Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon, the member for Cranganur. In this cut motion I have suggested that the grade of pay of the Police Constables and the Head Constables may be standardised so that if they prove ability in the course of their work, they may be given an increment which will be an inducement for them to work more hard. Now in the case of the Police Head Constables, I understand that a large number of them are School Finals and according to the grade of pay prevailing in other departments which are reserved for S. S. L. Cs. by the Staff Selection Board it is not very difficult if they get entrance into other departments they will be getting this grade. So it will be only just and proper if the grade of pay of these constables and Head constables are raised to the grade which I have prescribed here. I commend this motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Sir, Cut motion No. 3 standing in my name may also be allowed to be moved along with this.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: Sir, there is one difficulty with regard to that. When it comes to a question of voting, that motion will have to be put separately. If necessary the general discussion may be allowed along with this. With regard to Mr. Iyyu's motion it raises many other things and it is not possible for us to see eye to eye with it.

Mr. President: I do not think there is any objection to discuss cut motion No. 7 along with this because they are identical ones.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Sir, I rise to support this motion knowing the implications of this commitments that the Government will be put to and the difficulty for finding funds. Seventeen years ago in this particular hall, we brought a proposition that there should be no Government servant in the Cochin State, however small his work may be, who should be paid less than fifteen rupees. At that time, you may take it from me, there were Government servants drawing a pay of 3, 4 and 5 rupees. Government graciously accepted the principle of the proposition and although we carried it as Rs. 12 the Government accepted 10 rupees as the lowest minimum. Accordingly many poor people got it. Now, Sir, why are we asking for this increase of pay. It is only just to raise the standard of living. In this country the standard of living of the poor people is very low. Therefore we would like to have in an educated country, a progressive country, a higher standard of life and we want the Government to show the lead in the matter. If the Government leads the way, the other people who are rackrenting the poor will follow and the whole level of the country will rise. It is, Sir, that aspect of the matter that we have to consider. It is said that comparing the State of Travancore the Police of the State

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